

Tale Feathers

May 2003

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Live Raptor Program from World Bird Sanctuary

Join us on Tuesday, May 20th at 7 p.m. for a real treat!! Our monthly meeting will be at the World Bird Sanctuary facility where we will have a private viewing of their Raptor Awareness Education Program. The program covers birds of prey, their natural history and the many problems these birds are now facing. Sanctuary volunteers will present several birds of prey, including falcons, hawks, owls and vultures, some of which are used in free flight demonstrations. Whether you're 8 or 80, we're sure you'll love the show!!!

We would like to thank Linda Tossing, Audubon member and Sanctuary volunteer, in advance for making this program happen.

Please note the early start time of 7 p.m.-we want to take full advantage of the available daylight. You are welcome to come early (anytime after 6 p.m.) and tour the grounds. Sanctuary staff will be available for discussions. The program will be offered rain or shine-if necessary, it can be held indoors.

To get to the World Bird Sanctuary, take I-44 west to the Hwy 141 exit. Go right and take the first right to the Outer Road. Go left (west) on the Outer Road and follow it past the sign for Lone Elk Park. Take the right turn at the Park exit and go up the hill. The Sanctuary entrance is on your right at the top. There is plenty of parking inside the gate.

If you have questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112, or Bill Salsgiver at 636-225-1490.

President's Report

It has been a great year. It is hard to believe that it has gone by so quickly, but the calendar doesn't lie. I want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt Thank-You to a few people who are cycling off the Board: Mary Dueren, Vicki Flier, Jim Malone, and Pat McCormick. Without the extraordinary efforts of these people, the workloads of others would have been greater, and to be quite honest, many things would have gone undone. So, thanks for all you have done, but please, don't be strangers. You are too valuable to all we try to do.

We are going to publish a history of the St. Louis Audubon Society later this year. To aid that effort we are trying to compile a collection of as many of our old newsletters as possible. We have a good collection from the early 1990s until now, but have quite a few holes before that. If anyone has any past newsletters that they find during a spring-cleaning - especially the older issues - that are looking for a good home please give me a holler. I'll even come pick them up. These will be a great reference for anyone interested in our history.

It is time for our chapter to cast its votes for our Regional Director to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. There are two candidates running for the office: Ione Werthman from Omaha, Nebraska and Al Behm from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. Both candidates seem like fine choices, so the voting decision will be a difficult one. Anyone who is interested in helping us decide who to support, please call me and I will gladly send you a copy each candidate's profile. Our Board of Directors will be making the final call at our June Board meeting. We'd like your input.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers

Bird Box Monitoring at Two Rivers NWR

May 17

Calling all "citizen scientists." Join us on Saturday, May 17 as we kick-off the second year of our Prothonotary Warbler nestbox monitoring program at the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge outside Grafton, Illinois.

Unfortunately, the very wet spring last year put all the boxes under water during the peak of the nesting season. However, our visits were able to confirm the presence of nesting pairs in several natural cavities. We will be training anyone interested in helping to monitor the boxes around the Gilbert Lake area.

Please help us assist this very beautiful migratory songbird whose numbers are dramatically declining. No experience necessary and the amount of time you commit to monitoring throughout the breeding season will be entirely up to you.

We will work from about 9a to 12p, with lunch afterward in Grafton.

Bring boots and drinking water-we will provide the training materials.

Call Sue Gustafson at (314) 968-8128 or Mitch Leachman at (314) 739-5112 for more info and to sign up.



Breeding Bird Week-End to Southern Missouri

Jim Malone

This June, St. Louis Audubon Society will be offering a special birding trip across the Southern part of Missouri to search for some of the least seen birds in St. Louis or the rest of Missouri. Beginning on June 6th, we will visit Greer Springs to find Swainson's Warblers. From there we will move further South to Otter Slough to search for nesting Black-necked Stilts and other birds in the vicinity. We will then visit Caney Mountain to look for Bachman's Sparrows. We will end the journey in Southwestern Missouri to look at Black Vultures at the dam at Table Rock Lake, and search the area for Painted Buntings, Road runners, and some additional Western specialties. Exact details of the trip will be available early in May. The trip will cost \$25 per person, and will be limited to 24 participants. Keep an eye on the St. Louis Audubon Society website at www.stlouisaudubon.org for trip itinerary and details. For more information and to make a reservation contact Jim Malone at stlaud@surfbest.net or at (636) 536-1119

Birding Walks for 2003 - 2004

John Solodar

Jim Malone has been coordinating and leading the St. Louis Audubon Society birding trips for the last few years. For the most part, he has done all the work himself. Recently Jim mentioned that he would like to step down as of the end of this season's bird trips. Looking at the list of 19 St. Louis area trips plus 2 out of town events that he is leading this year one can understand why.

Jim has asked John Solodar to take over the job of coordinator. John has accepted and is in the process of lining up leadership help. His plan is to decentralize the trip leadership so that no one person has primary responsibility for more than two or three trips. With a group of 7-8 leaders this should work out well. A few leaders are already on board.

The out of town trips and the Carlyle Pelagic have proven very popular over the last few years, but these trips all require a lot of planning, contacting on-site service providers, collecting money, coordinating carpooling and publicity, etc. Solodar is willing to continue having these trips, but only if he receives major help with the logistics involved. If you are inclined to handle the work for just one of these events, please contact John in person. (solodar1@mindspring.com or 314-862-5294). It has been suggested that it's time for another spring trip to Mingo Wildlife Refuge including Duck Creek and Otter Slough. We could put this into next year's mix and drop out something else.

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society initiated a series of Sunday birding trips this past season. They have proven to be popular and will probably be continued next year. It has been observed that a lot of the attendance at these events comprises the same mostly beginning and intermediate birders as the SLAS events. We will work with WGNSS to coordinate our activities for this group to ensure that as many trips are available as possible without duplication on any particular day.

**REMEMBER: INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATORY BIRD WEEK IS MAY
4-11!!**

Summer Birding in St. Louis

Jim Malone

As we draw near this year's calendar of birding trips in and outside of the St. Louis area, we are by no means finished yet! Spring migration is the best time of year to bird. The birds are in their splendid breeding plumages and their varieties are never greater than during these months, they are singing, and the weather is really wonderful too. What more could you ask for. Here is a listing of the birding opportunities available in the St. Louis area from the beginning of May. Now it's your responsibility to get out there and bird!

May 4, (Sunday) Tower Grove Park, 7:30 AM This walk kicks off International Migratory Bird Week in St. Louis, and should have some of the best warbler variety of the year. To get there, Take Kingshighway South from either I-64 or I-44 to Magnolia. Turn Left on Magnolia and drive to the stop light. Turn right into Tower Grove Park and then right again at the first road. Follow this road to the Gaddy Bird garden at the Northwest corner of the park. Leaders: Jim Malone > 636/536-1119; stlaud@surfbest.net Paul Bauer > 314/921-3972; Bauerbird5511@msn.com

May 11, (Sunday) Forest Park, 7:30 AM This last major event of the International Migratory Bird Week is one of the best attended walks of the year. Come and join us to see why. To get to the meeting site, Take the Hampton exit from I-64 (US 40) North into the park. Turn left at the first road (Wells Drive) and follow around the back of the zoo to a brown Missouri Department of Conservation sign on the right side of the road. The sign is for the Kennedy Woods Outdoor Classroom area. Turn right on the gravel road and park on the loop at the end of the road. Leaders: Jim Malone & Paul Bauer (see May 4th walk for contact info)

May 18, (Sunday) Forest Park, 8:00 AM Join the man who knows Forest park like no one else for a trip though Kennedy Woods. Meet at the location detailed above. Leader/contacts - Randy Korotev > 314/993-0055; rlk@levee.wustl.edu , Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

May 24, (Saturday) Marais Temps Clair, 7:00 AM We will get an early start to avoid as much of the steamy part of the day as possible. This is a good area for shorebirds, egrets, waterfowl, and a variety of passerines. It is also a good area for mosquitoes, so bring repellent! To get there, Take highway 94 North and West from St. Charles. Veer right onto highway H a few miles out of town. Follow H to Island Road and turn left. Go Up Island to the parking area (right side of road) at the office for Marias Temps Clair. There will be some walking on level gravel roads on this trip, and you will want to bring something to drink. Leaders: Jim Malone & Paul Bauer (see May 4th walk for contact info)

May 25 (Sunday), Riverlands EDA, 7:00 AM. Join Bill Rowe at Riverlands to look for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and other birds of the season. To get there, take highway 367 North from I-270 toward Alton, Illinois. Just before the Mississippi river bridge, turn right at the Fisca gasoline station. Turn right at the gravel road (Wise road) and meet in the Teal Pond parking lot. Leader - Bill Rowe > wr@tjs.org , Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

June 1(Sunday) Tower Grove Park, 8:00 AM Visit Tower Grove with us in the early summer to find nesting species and some rather tardy migrants. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden (see travel directions in the May 4 trip description above). Leader - Kent Lannert 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

June 8 (Sunday), Busch CA., 8:00 AM Busch offers a good variety of habitats, and bird life. Come see breeding birds and a couple of possible surprises. To get there, take Highway 94 South from I-64 in St. Charles County. Turn right at Highway D and follow it to the Busch entrance on the right. Meet in the Headquarters parking lot. Leader - Anne McCormack > 314/965-8091 Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

June 22 (Sunday), Riverlands EDA, 7:30 AM This is a great location throughout the year. Come out and join Kieth on this walk to find out why. See travel directions listed above in the May 25 trip description. Leader - Keith McMullen > warbler@intertek.net Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

July 27 (Sunday), Horseshoe Lake SP, Madison co. IL, 8:00 AM Horseshoe lake is not only about waterfowl and gulls. Let Frank show you what else this interesting resource has to offer the early summer birder. To get there, take I-70 to Illinois and exit at highway 111. Take 111 North for about 2-3 miles to the entrance to Horseshoe Lake State Park. Inside the park, follow the main road across the causeway to Walker Island. Meet at the pavilion at end of causeway. Leader- Frank Holmes Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 klannert@charter.net

August 17 (Sunday), Tower Grove Park, 7:30 AM Don't stop birding just because summer is here. Go to Tower Grove Park and find out why it is one of the most interesting birding locations in St. Louis. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden (directions listed above in the May 4th trip description). Leader - Bob Kleiger , Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

August 24 (Sunday), Riverlands EDA, 8:00 AM This time of year, the fall migration of shorebirds has already begun. Riverlands is a premier vantage point from which to view it. Follow the above directions to get here, and meet Dave at the Teal Pond parking lot. Leader: Dave Rogles > suneska@EXCITE.COM , Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net

For additional great birding field trips to the best locations for the season, join the regular WGNSS bird walks on Thursdays and Saturdays. For additional information about these walks, visit the WGNSS website at http://levee.wustl.edu/~rlk/wgnss/field_trips.html or contact walk leaders: Thursday walks: Jackie Chain - 314/644-5998 Saturday walks: David Becher - 314/576-1146 Sunday walks: Kent Lannert - 618/624-4464 ; klannert@charter.net or trip leader.

The Role of Chapters in the National Audubon Society

Jim Holsen

We saw in the December 2002 issue of *Tale Feathers* that chapters of the National Audubon Society (NAS) are unique among chapters of environmental organizations in being independently incorporated, not-for-profit societies. Each is responsible only to its own Board of Directors. This is a genuine grassroots organization, with responsible conservation and education programs originating in large part within the chapters, rather than being passed down from Washington, DC, or New York. Other national environmental organizations would fight to acquire a grassroots organization like this; yet the National Audubon senior management does not seem happy with the chapter system as it now exists.

National Audubon members should be aware of two major actions taken by the Board of the National Audubon Society. First, a Membership Strategy Task Force of the Board recommended in September 2000 that the "dues share," the portion of the annual dues which National Audubon rebates to the chapters each year, be calculated by a new formula which in the future will reduce the dues share to practically zero. Chapters have not been allowed to collect dues and the dues share has been needed to fund their newsletters and other services to members. (This year, we are on the third year of a 3-year "safety net" and will receive 1/2 of our former dues share, the following year it will become practically zero.)

Then, in December 2001, the NAS Board adopted a Chapter Policy Document that replaced an earlier document from 1986 that had recognized the many mutual responsibilities of chapters and NAS -- and which specifically prescribed a procedure by which chapters were consulted about and helped to determine the conservation priorities of National Audubon. The final policy adopted in 2001 was not as bad as the original drafts, but the process leading up to the final document was acrimonious. Early drafts, for example, restricted chapter activities to the local level -- chapters were not to be allowed to set policy for themselves on the regional and national levels. This would have been an impossible policy for any independent Board of Directors to have adopted.

Other acts on the part of National Audubon have made it apparent that the senior management does not value its relationship with chapters. A couple of years ago, NAS decided to stop supporting web sites for chapters. National Audubon has even ceased holding the semi-annual nation-wide conferences which enabled chapter leaders to meet and discuss common problems. And many chapter leaders feel that in recent years National Audubon has moved away from the strong advocacy role that it had practiced with respect to environmental issues.

One explanation for this change in attitude is the obsession of senior management with president John Flicker's "2020 Vision," a vision of 1000 NAS supported Audubon Centers by the year 2020. Flicker's vision will cost literally billions to

construct, plus perhaps another \$1/2 billion or more in yearly operating costs. Where will National Audubon find money like that? National Audubon's annual budget is less than \$100 million.

One answer is contributions from large corporate donors -- but such donors have implied conditions attached to their gifts. That is why John Flicker has told the story of one corporate donor who asked him: "Why can't you control your chapters? Why are your chapters so mean?"

National Audubon's Board consists of 36 persons, 12 elected for 3-year terms each year. Since the success of a reform movement in 1986, nine of those directors have been nominated by chapters located in nine regions of the country. David Tylka, a former president of St. Louis Audubon and professor of biology at the Meramec Campus of the St. Louis Community College, is currently one of those regional directors. Dave and other chapter representatives on the NAS Board will tell you that few members on the Board have much knowledge or interest in chapters -- that is why the Board has adopted such chapter-defeating proposals as the reduction in dues share with little discussion.

During the years leading up to the dues share proposal and the 2001 Chapter Policy document, many chapter leaders learned to work together to present their views to the Board. Nevertheless, it was difficult to get the attention of Board members. Accordingly, many chapter leaders have decided that it is time for a new reform movement -- a movement to place directors on the Board who understand the importance of chapters.

The movement has come to be called Take Back Audubon. A slate of 12 nominees for director is being prepared, including the three regional candidates who will be nominated by chapters. Members will be asked to mail in proxies, to be voted at the election at the next Annual Meeting, expected to be held in New York this coming December. These reform proxies will replace official proxies carrying the slate of candidates named by the nominating committee of the NAS Board of Directors, which are normally mailed with the last issue of Audubon magazine before the December Annual Meeting.

Members can learn more about this movement and about the prospective nominees by going to the Take Back Audubon web site at <http://home.att.net/~cgbraggjr/TBA/index.htm>. The same material may be found at the web site of the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society: <http://smbas.cjb.net>. Both web sites are maintained by Chuck Bragg, a member of the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society who retired as a chapter-nominated director of National Audubon this past December.

Chapter leaders supporting the reform movement have their own vision of a truly grassroots Audubon Society reflecting the aspirations of Audubon members across the country. We will have more to say about this movement in later newsletters.

Columbia Bottom To Reopen

John Solodar

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area comprises 4,300 acres at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The Department of Conservation acquired the land in September 1997. The area was open to the public for a few years while a management plan was developed by MDC with input from the public. During this time access was fairly limited because private vehicles were not allowed on the interior roads. Columbia Bottom was closed in July 2002 when extensive construction and earth moving activity began.

MDC now plans to reopen Columbia Bottom to the public around May 30 of this year. Visitors will be able to drive into the area for the first time. The entrance road will be open all the way to the river confluence. Eventually, additional roads will be open to afford access to other parts of the bottomland.

The management plan envisions use of Columbia Bottom by visitors with diverse interests. While there will be hunting and fishing traditionally associated with MDC properties, there will be abundant opportunities for Audubon members more interested in birding, wetlands, prairies and forest. Hiking and biking will also be available.

Three aspects of Columbia Bottom should appeal to Audubon members. These include managed and unmanaged wetlands, the River's Edge Trail and the Confluence Trail. For the wetlands, MDC wants to have the ability to manage water levels for both waterfowl and shorebirds in some wetland areas. The Army Corps of Engineers is designing, building and paying for several pumps and all the piping, water control structures and levee work to create and manage the approximately 700 acres of wetlands. MDC anticipates this work being completed in mid to late 2004, and the wetlands will be in operation shortly thereafter. However, weather and Federal budget constraints could push the date into the future. In addition, it will take some time for the proper food for these birds to develop in sufficient amounts to hold shorebirds in the area. Currently there are places on the bottom that hold water after rain or high water, and it is anticipated that these unmanaged wetlands will be attracting wildlife very soon.

The River's Edge Trail (hiking/walking only) runs three miles along the Missouri River from a boat ramp (built for river access) to the confluence. It runs through the riverfront forest with thick cover right to the edge of the river. Mike Arduser, of MDC, reports that this should be an excellent spring birding trail. The Confluence Trail (hiking/biking) covers 4.8 miles from the entrance to the confluence. It runs mostly on top of a levee passing wetlands, cropland, a slough, planted prairie and forest.

A main attraction for the public-at-large will be at the river confluence point. A large octagonal cement platform has been built with trail access up the Missouri and for a short distance down the Mississippi. The platform may be used a lot by birders with scopes during certain times of the year.

Columbia Bottom is reached from the northern stretch of I-270 by taking the Riverview Drive exit (the last one before the Chain of Rocks Bridge to Illinois) and driving north for 2.75 miles. The road changes names to Columbia Bottom Road about half way. The Conservation Area entrance is on the right at the point where Columbia Bottom Road makes a sharp left turn up the hill and becomes Strodtman Road.

People with further questions should contact the area manager, Tom Leifield at LEIFIT@mdc.state.mo.us.

Scholarships and Awards

The St. Louis Audubon Society Awards Committee as selected two teachers, Gene Coffman and Susan Neulist to receive camp scholarships for 2003. They will both be attending Audubon Camp in Maine. Gene is a middle school science teacher at St. Francis of Assisi school. Susan is sixth grade science teacher at LaSalle Springs Middle School in the Rockwood School district. Gene and Susan are both eager to share the knowledge they gain at the camp with their students and fellow teachers.

At this year's annual meeting, the Robert J. Terry Award was presented to Jim Holsen in recognition of his years of leadership and public representation of the St. Louis Audubon Society in support of conservation issues. As a member of the board for 10 years, he has served as VP-Conservation and President. He has submitted dozens of letters to local newspapers sharing Audubon's viewpoint on numerous regional issues. As a representative of SLAS, he has attended countless meetings working with other conservation organizations. Jim has also actively supported many specific efforts, including the drive to stop the Page Avenue extension, the establishment of the Upper Mississippi River Alliance, cooperative efforts with the Army Corp of Engineers at Riverlands, and the establishment of an Audubon Missouri office. We are very grateful for the time and energy he has given over the years in support of the SLAS.

The Legislator of the Year Award was presented this year to Senator Patrick Dougherty. He represents the 4th Senatorial District in the Central West End of the city of St. Louis. He works closely with Senators Wayne Goode and Joan Bray on many environmental issues, including several concerning the Missouri Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation. He has taken the lead in opposition to Senate Bill SB 360, a bill that would exempt "any sand or gravel operator that mines less than 5,000 tons of gravel per year from regulation and licensing." Unregulated mining for sand or gravel has the potential to destroy the clean streams of the Ozarks. SLAS greatly appreciates Sen. Dougherty's support of environmental issues in Missouri.

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, Vice President Conservation

Bird Conservation Day -- At a ceremony on April 17th in Jefferson City, **Governor Bob Holden** signed a document proclaiming the second Saturday of May, May 10th, to be Bird Conservation Day. This proclamation is a result of the work of numerous organizations establishing the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI). St. Louis Audubon has been involved in MoBCI since its inception and is represented on the MoBCI interim board of directors by Audubon Missouri. The governor's proclamation also states that Missouri's citizens believe conserving our state's natural environment is one of the most important concerns for current and future generations, that bird watching is one of the fastest growing recreational activities in the United States, that 402 species of birds have been recorded in Missouri, and that within Missouri, wildlife-watchers generate \$997 million in total business-generated activity. We would like to thank Governor Holden for recognizing not only one of our favorite pastimes, but for increasing the awareness of the need for bird conservation.

Legislative issues -- The activities of the current Missouri General Assembly suggest that it is perhaps the most anti-environmental legislative session in decades. Dozens of bills have been introduced to roll back the gains in environmental protection and conservation law that Missouri has made over the last 30 years. Several of the most detrimental proposals are as follows:

HB 215 - "No Stricter Than" - Would prohibit Missouri's environmental laws from being more protective than current laws. This would prevent Missouri from crafting laws to protect its own unique resources, e. g., the springs, streams and groundwater of the Ozarks from new threats. This bill may be combined with SB 36 into HCS SC SB 36 which not only would prevent Missouri from issuing regulations stricter than federal but would open up Missouri's streams to unregulated sand and gravel mining in quantities of up to 5000 tons per year.

SJR 21 - Conservation Sales Tax - Would require a vote of the people every four years to maintain the conservation sales tax. This bill would risk the loss of the Conservation Department's sales tax.

SJR 23 - Conservation Sales Tax Diversion - This bill would require the voters to decide whether to approve diversion of one half of the conservation sales tax to the public school fund. This bill is probably the most serious threat to the Missouri Department of Conservation in many years.

What you can do to help - Please contact your elected representatives and express your opinion about these legislative activities. Bills in the Missouri General Assembly are amended and acted on frequently during legislative sessions, often with little notice. If citizens are to have an impact we need to know the issues and when to contact our legislators and other government officials.

Audubon Missouri and St. Louis Audubon are working with other conservation organizations in Missouri to protect our environmental protection and conservation laws and funding. If you would like to receive periodic e-mail alerts on legislation and other conservation issues, please contact Audubon Missouri's Public Policy Committee Chair, Dave Bedan, at davebedan@sockets.net.

You can also check on the details and current status of the Missouri bills on the House/Senate joint bill tracking site at <http://www.house.state.mo.us/jointsearch.asp>. You can also find complete contact information for your state legislators at <http://www.moga.state.mo.us/>. Remember, if your legislators and other government officials don't hear from you they can only assume that you approve of the current direction in state government.



Another Successful Backyard Bird Count!

Have you checked out the results of this year's Great Backyard Bird Count yet at the website? If not, here are just a few interesting details from this year's count:

Total Checklists submitted:	48,446
Total Species:	512
Total individual birds counted:	4,233,327

St. Louis finished in the top ten lists of cities submitting checklists. We finished eighth. The number one city was Charlotte, North Carolina. Texas was first in number of species reported with 264. The state of New York was number one with 3124 checklists submitted.

In Missouri, the top five species reported were in descending order: Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, Downy Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, and the American Goldfinch. The top numbers of birds seen in Missouri were the Mallard Duck, Dark-eyed Junco and Goldfinches.

If you participated in this huge citizen science project: THANK-YOU.

If not, please plan on participating next year. It's a great weekend project!

May Tale Feathers

Reminder: West Nile Virus will Return

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and County Health departments are reminding everyone that the West Nile Virus will return again this summer. Take precautions NOW! These include the following:

- " Spray clothing & exposed skin with insect repellent at least 50% DEET. For Children under 12, use 10% DEET.
- " Wear long sleeves and long trousers.
- " Limit outdoor activity at dawn and dusk.
- " Eliminate standing water! Empty flowerpots, gutters, barrels or any place water can collect. Change the water in birdbaths daily or every other day.
- " Repair screens on windows and doors.
- " Keep grass cut short to eliminate mosquito-hiding places.

If you find a dead bird, contact your local county department of health. They can advise you on proper disposal.

St. Louis Audubon Society Education Committee Annual Report

Dale Ponce, VP Education

The 2002 - 2003 year has been a very productive and rewarding time for the Education Committee.

We have added to the list of programs offered and have revised some of our original programs to make them even more interesting and informative. Our current eight programs have structured in such a manner that permits the presenter to alter each program depending on the grade level of the class or group.

In addition, we are very happy to announce one new member has been added to the committee resulting in a total of eleven members. We sincerely hope that more volunteers will decide to help us in the coming year.

To date, we have made 42 presentations and accordingly we were able to reach 2116 children of various ages and 430 adults. It should be noted these are not the final year end totals as there are several programs scheduled for the remainder of April as well as May.

We eagerly look forward to next year as we have recently acquired a rather large assortment of bird slides from Cornell University and with the pending purchase of a slide projector, all of our programs will be greatly enhanced and made even more interesting.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2002 - 2003

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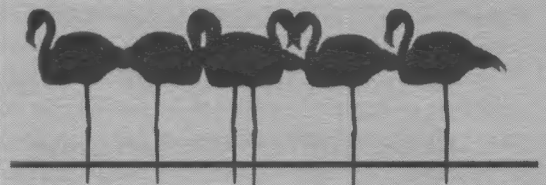
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VP Finance - Torrey Berger	314-579-9227
Treasurer - David Rabenau	314-968-8128
Secretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

Welcome New Members and Transfers!!

St. Louis Audubon Society would like to welcome the newest members to our chapter:

Sis Mange
Donald Mills
Corine Overmann
W D Leip
Michael E. Wolford



Attention!

The deadline for the August issue is **July 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

All applicants please check: ☐ New, or ☐ Renewal Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Introductory Membership / \$20 ☐ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

☐ Senior Citizen / \$15 (New and renewal) ☐ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

☐ Renewal / \$35 (We recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name

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